



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 9, 1996

Ms. Dolores D. Lopez
Director
Travis County Voter Registration
1010 Lavaca
Austin, Texas 78701

OR96-2332

Dear Ms. Lopez:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 101570.

Travis County (the "county") received a request from the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General (the "division") for access to the social security numbers of taxpayers. Although it appears that the division is seeking to obtain this information from county tax records, you have chosen to interpret the request as seeking access to voter registration records.¹ You ask whether it is appropriate for the county to provide the division with voters' social security numbers.

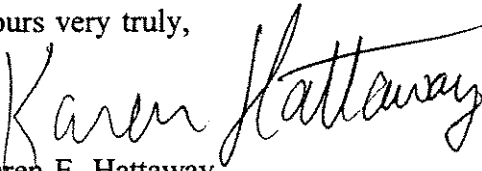
State law expressly authorizes the division to obtain information, such as social security numbers, that will enable it to locate absent parents for the purpose of establishing and enforcing child support obligations. Fam. Code § 231.302. Furthermore, the division must hold the social security numbers it acquires confidential and may use them only for child support enforcement purposes. Fam. Code § 231.302(e)-(f). Based on these considerations, we conclude that the county must provide the division with access to the social security numbers of registered voters. *See Open Records Decision No. 516 (1989).*

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts

¹Voter registration records contain the social security numbers of only those voters who opt to provide that information to the county. *See Elec. Code § 13.122.*

presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Karen E. Hattaway
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KEH/ch

Ref: ID# 101570

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Conley Jackson
Communications Manager
Office of the Attorney General
Child Support Division
4044 Promontory Point
Austin, Texas 78744
(w/o enclosures)